

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

August 25, 2015

MINUTES

I. The August meeting of the Frederick County Human Relations Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, Maryland by Chair Angela Spencer.

An invitation was given to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. The following members were present at the meeting: Angela Spencer, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Georgia McCauley, Mari Lee, Annette Breiling, Lisa Clark, Irene Packer-Halsey, Francisco Alves, Kavonte Duckett and Felicia Turner

The following members were absent: Gene Stanton

The following liaison members were present: Kathleen Hartsock, Donna Kuzemchak and Jessica Fitzwater

Guests present were: Patrick Grossman, Lt. Tokarz, Chief Hargis and Sheriff Jenkins

III. Meeting Minutes approval

Upon a motion by Kavonte Duckett and a second by Mari Lee with unanimous membership vote, the July minutes were approved with two changes.

IV. Comments from the Public

Chief Hargis introduced himself to the Commission.

Sheriff Jenkins spoke to the commission about the heroin situation in Frederick County and reported that there is a downswing in the number of overdoses this year.

There is a new program for heroin addicts leaving the jail system using the drug Vivitrol. It is costly and the department will track how well it works.

The department is staying on track with drug awareness programs.

They are in the community participating in National Night Out and with their annual Open House as well as being visible in communities.

Trinity UMC will be hosting a conference regarding incarceration and drug abuse and how to help individuals exiting the jail system

Lt. Tokarz reported that today state delegates came to the academy to visit. The new academy starts November 9 and the city will be hiring from 8 to 12 people. The swearing in ceremony for the current graduates will be held this Friday at Hood College.

Patrick Grossman reported that the police department is developing a survey for the new academy and they will have the recruits go into the community to get public input. Lt Tokarz will be asking for the members help with questions. They are also formulating a survey to send to city residents at large.

V. Officers' Reports

Executive Committee

Angela Spencer reported that National Night Out was successful we had participation at all of the sites.

By-laws have been submitted to the county attorney for their review

She will attend the Citizens Police Academy; there are several graduates that are HRC members.

Angela also discussed the possibility of the HRC going green in 2016.

Treasurer's Report

Mari Lee reported that there is \$4651.09 available to the HRC.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Relations Committee

Lisa Clark passed around the In The Street sign up.

The Naturalization Ceremony will be held on the 1st floor of Winchester Hall and everything is falling into place so far.

Government Relations Committee

Mari Lee showed the power point that was created as a base for the video PSA that the County will produce for us. Jessica Fitzwater suggested that acronyms not be used.

Internal Relations Committee

Tonya Amedon reported that the committee met on 8/19 and that they will partner with the Boys & Girls Club to create the Jr. HRC. The site directors will select 2 students from each site and the IRC will hold a meet in greet in September, with meetings 1 time a month thereafter.

The group has come up with a number of questions for the students to ponder. The students will be asked to come to the HRC meetings 1 time a quarter.

There was a discussion about assisting the students with conducting a meeting.

The students will be asked to assist with events.

VII. New Business

A sign in sheet for the Latino Festival was passed around to the group.

VIII. HRD Director's Report

Miles Ward thanked Jessica Fitzwater for taking the lead on the English Only Ordinance and also Donna Kuzemchak for taking the lead on the Relocation of the Taney Bust.

We lost two individuals who fought for Human Rights: Julian Bond and Edward Thomas a police officer in Houston Texas. Miles passed out articles on both individuals.

IX. Upcoming Events

9/13/2015 - Hillcrest Community Day

9/20/2015 – Trip to the Border

9/22/2015 – Culture and Justice at Hood College

10/17/2015 – Naturalization Ceremony

10/24/2015 – Frederick Community Health Fair

12/5/2015 - AACF 10 Year Celebration Gala

X. Sharing

Kathleen Hartsock reported that the new school year began yesterday with 41,000 students.

She also spoke about the Ending the Achievement Gap event being held at TJ High School on 9/15. Parents are invited and there will be food and school supplies available.

The Stuff the Bus campaign served over 1200 children this year.

Jessica Fitzwater said she was excited about the PSA. She thanked the HRC for their help with the ordinance. She reminded the HRC that she is available to the HRC to introduce legislation in the future.

Donna Kuzemchak said she is here for the commission to provide support. She said this is her 3rd attempt to have the Taney Bust relocated. She asked if any members were able, would they please send letters in support of the Resolution.

Chief Hargis thanked the HRC for allowing him to attend the meeting and looks forward to working with us.

Angela Spencer closed with a remark about Hurricane Katrina hit the US 10 years ago and communities came together to help each other. She compared that to what the HRC does. She thanked everyone for their hard work.

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Minutes were submitted by the Human Relations Department